

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

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R 091530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8258

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNIDO, OECD, AU

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL FOR ASSISTING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LDCS

REF: (A) VIENNA 2635, (B) VIENNA 2220

1. SUMMARY: MEETING OF INTERESTED GOVERNEMENTS ON AUSTRIAN PLAN FOR ASSISTING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LDCS WAS HELD IN VIENNA APRIL 8 AND 9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT REACTION OF THOSE ATTENDING WAS GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC AND THAT UNIDO DID NOT PARTICIPATE. END SUMMARY.

2. SOURCES IN OTHER GROUP B MISSIONS TO UNIDO HAVE TOLD US THAT MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE NETHERLANDS, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND. SWEDEN WAS ON THE ORIGINAL LIST OF GOVERNMENTS TO BE INVITED BUT RECEIVED NO INVITATION. THE SWEDES ARE SAID TO BE RATHER SURPRISED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND REASON FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR EXCLUSION IS UNCLEAR. GERMAN REPS (ANDERSON--ECON

MIN AND WIESEBACH--ECON COOPERATION MIN) REPORTEDLY WERE INSTRUCTED TO CORRECT A POSSIBLE "MISUNDERSTANDING" AS TO FRG POSITION ON THE PLAN AND TOOK A NEGATIVE STANCE. THE ITALIANS ALSO OPPOSED THE PLAN, BUT POSITION OF THE REMAINING REPS IS UNCLEAR.

3. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS THAT EXEC DIRECTOR KHANE MIGHT ADDRESS THE GROUP, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT, IN FACT, NO NOE FROM UNIDO ATTENDED MEETING. U.S. MISSION UNIDO HAS, HOWEVER, HEARD EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS FOR HAVING THE AUSTRIAN PLAN PLACED ON THE GROUP B AGENDA SOMETIME AFTER EASTER. INTEREST IN THIS REGARD IS CLEARLY ON IMPLICATIONS OF PLAN FOR UNIDO RATHER THAN ON ITS SUBSTANCE PER SE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE CHANCELLOR KREISKY SEEMS TO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST SOME VAGUE HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT (CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, PRIME MINISTER PALME, AND FRG ECON COOPERATION MIN BAHR) OR NEUTRAL REACTIONS (THE SWISS), THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN AT WORKING LEVEL IN OTHER GOVERNMENTS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED IT AND SEEN ITS OBVIOUS WEAKNESSES. IT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT WILL BE CONCERNING THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL; NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN IT, WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE PLAN, OR AT LEAST SOME MODIFIED VERSION THEREOF, IS LIKELY. IN VIEW OF OUR INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING GREATER CONSTRUCTIVE AUSTRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (REF B), WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT BE ONLY COUNTRY TO THROW COLD WATER ON THE AUSTRIAN PLAN.BUCHANAN

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